

REMARKS

We are in receipt of the Office Action dated September 24, 2002, and the above Amendment and following remarks are made in light thereof.

In the Office Action, the Examiner makes a restriction requirement requesting an election between the composition Claims 1-18 (Group I) and the method Claims 19-21 (Group II). Applicant herein elects to prosecute the method claims (Group II-Claims 19-21), and by the present Amendment cancels the pending method Claims 19-21 without prejudice and substitutes new method Claims 22-38 in their stead. Composition Claims 1-18 are cancelled without prejudice to presentation in a divisional application.

The Examiner has requested an election of either the amino acids (single) per se or oligopeptide/polypeptide. As the composition claims have been deleted from the application, all the claims remaining in the application are directed to a method of reducing acidity in the vagina including the administration of a composition, called for in a Markush group, comprising one or more amino acids, oligopeptides, polypeptides or a combination thereof. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the election requirement of the Examiner is rendered moot.

The Examiner also made an objection to certain claims for being improper multiple dependent claims. Applicant believes

this objection is rendered moot by the cancellation of the claims, as filed, and the presentation of new claims.

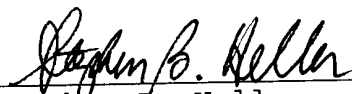
Furthermore, the Applicant has corrected a translation mistake. Lines 5-6 in paragraph (2), on page 23 of the application have been amended to read as follows:

"showed that there are many Gram-positive bacilli, positive cocci and Gram-negative bacilli are little."

Applicant notes that the original PCT document in Chinese, on page 18, is correct. This correction reflects the common knowledge of those skilled in the art.

Accordingly, Applicant believes that it has fully responded to the outstanding Office Action, and an early examination on the merits of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

--(2) The preparation of the specimen suspension: vaginal secretion was taken by a cotton swab from one of the patients with vaginal secretions of pH value less than 4.0. Then the swab was washed in 2ml sterilized Trypcase-soy Broth immediately, and thus the specimen suspension was ready. The vaginal secretion smear dyeing showed that there are many Gram-positive ~~negative~~ bacilli, positive cocci and Gram-~~positive~~ negative bacilli are little.--

In the Claims:

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled without prejudice to presentation in a divisional application.

Claims 19-21 have also been cancelled without prejudice.